

USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame and Honor

October 3, 2018
Sterling Heights, Michigan

“The history of sports has been marked by the occasional appearance of an athlete who seems to have been touched by a magical hand, whose extraordinary skills are embellished by an intangible spark of greatness, an athlete who seems destined to leave an indelible stamp on his or her chosen avocation. Greatness assumes many shapes and forms, like subtle colors blending into a deep blue hue, but in any form, greatness separates the legends from the mere mortals in the arena of sports. Proficiency and skill can be honed by practice and dedication but the real outstanding athletes, the Hall of Famers, come to the arena with greatness already programmed into their personalities. The purpose of the USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame and Honor is to recognize and honor those metro Detroit men and women who have played so brilliantly and competed so well during their careers, managed, umpired, sponsored, or provided that special touch to the game of softball, and who at the same time have contributed to the development and growth of their sport.”

Categories are as follows:

- Player
- Umpire
- Manager
- Sponsor
- Commissioner
- Meritorious Service

USA Softball of Metro Detroit

“The Best in Softball”

www.USASoftballDetroit.org

National USA Softball web site: www.usasoftball.com



USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame and Honor



Softball and Baseball back
in the 2020 Olympics in
Tokyo, Japan



23rd USA Softball of Metro Detroit

Hall of Fame Awards Banquet

1982

George Caloia*-FPP
Bill Cole-SPP
Carl "Tex" Collins*-SPP
Mike Gouin-SPP
Bonnie Jones*-FPP
Sam Lombardo*-FPP

1983

Ed Figelski*-FPP
Mike Iltich*-S
Beatrice Lollar-SPP
Roy Lombardo*-MG
Jim Snyder*-S

1984

Mike Adray*-S
Bob Auten-SPP
Mack Phillips*-S
Johnny Spring*-FPP
Frank Verbanac*-SPP

1985

Al Dolecki-S
Joe Gauci-SPP
Charles Justice*-FPP
Anthony Lutomski*-C
William Svochak*-C

1986

Mike Axelson-SPP
George Gillies*-U
Wilbur Landis*-C
Rocco Palmer*-FPP

1987

Joe Castrodale-FPP
Felix Michaels*-S
Jim Puckett-SPP

1988

Thomas Chappelle-SPP
Sammy Gee*-FPP
Bob McCaffrey*-U
John "Jack" Trompicks*-MS
Jack Westerlund-SPP

1989

George Corona*-SPP
Jackie Huggins-SPP
Fred Nothdurft-S
Karl Nothdurft-S
Tom Trompicks*-SPP
Ed Tyson-FPP

1990

Wally Galba*-SPP
George LaPlata-S
Don Lair*-C
Linda Mueller-SPP
Carl Walker*-FPP
Jerry Zarick-FPP

1991

Milo Karhu-SPP
Tony Mazza-SPP
Percy McCommer*-FPP
Evans Telegadas-FPP
Jack Tobias-U

1992

Diane Laffey-MS
Bob Malicki-SPP
"Buck" Polonczyk*-MS
Charlie Williams-SPP

1994

Ernie Flowers-FPP
Leon Grunalt*-MG
Robert Kaump*-U
Andy Kovalcik*-MG
Gary LaDue-SPP
Sally Whalen*-MS

1996

Mike Engan-MS
Paul Gatto*-FPP
Jim "Torch" Scullen-S
Ed Shankin-SPP
Mike Turk-SPP

1998

Al Hortop*-MS
Shelley Larned-FPP
George Lerchen-SPP
Frank Pilarowski*-P/MG
Al White-MP

2004

Mike Busch-SPP
Tim Doyle*-C
Angie Fielder-FPP
Gary Urbanczyk-M
Ted Younce-U

2006

Mike Barei-U
Dick Collard-M
John Eckstein-SPP
Danny Lipinski*-C
Kelly Thayer-FPP
Doug Zimmerman-U

2010

Bob Green-SPP
Tom Fitzsimmons-U
Carol Hutchins-MS
Mike McDowell-SPP
Evelyn Micol-MS
Dennis Troshak-MS

2012

Gary Bryce-MS
Bob Kost-U
Al Land-MS
Julie Liljeberg-FPP
Tony Profita*-MS
Don Sheffield-SPP
Tim Whitson-MS

2016

Melissa Bater - FP
Dan Daldine - U
Harry Harolian* - FP

Key:

SPP – Slow Pitch Player U – Umpire
FPP – Fast Pitch Player M – Manager
M – Meritorious Service S – Sponsor
MP – Modified Player * Deceased



Mike Scharf Umpire

Mike Scharf has been involved with USA Softball of Metro Detroit since he first registered in 1982, 36 years ago.

Mike began his softball involvement as a slow pitch player in 1973-82 playing in Shelby Township, Rochester, and Suburban Softball.

He worked as a League Supervisor/UIC for Rochester-Avon softball from 2010-2012 as well as an assistant softball director and assistant UIC at Total Sports from 1992-1998.

Mike also served as the USA Softball of Metro Detroit UIC in 2016; and remains a member of the current umpire staff. He has worked 10 national tournaments and attended National Umpire Schools in 1996, 2010, 2016.

Some of Mike's honors include being a Gold Level Member of the Medals Program, a National Indicator Fraternity Member, and an Elite Slow Pitch Umpire. His contributions to the umpire program in the metro Detroit area continues to provide valuable leadership and guidance to umpires!

A Finesse Salute

The Finesse youth fast pitch softball organization has achieved enormous success on the diamond! Established in 1986 (30+ years in both youth slow pitch and fastpitch softball), Finesse is recognized as one the top girls fastpitch organizations in the Midwest.

The Finesse organization provides opportunities for female athletes from 10-18 years old. More than 300 players have gone on to play softball in college on scholarships with many of those athletes named All-Americans. Multiple players have also been named to Flo Softball's Top 100. A former Finesse player and star at University of Michigan, Amanda Chidester, is currently on the USA national team.

Their teams are consistently ranked in the top 50 teams nationally while achieving multiple national championships in both slow pitch and fastpitch. In 2017, the 14U team finished runner-up at USA Softball A Nationals; the 16U team captured the USA JO Cup National Championship; and in 2018, the 14U and 16U teams finished top 5 at the USA Softball JO Cup.

The accomplishments of the Finesse Softball organization are impeccable!

Tracy Carr Fast Pitch Player

Tracy began her illustrious fast pitch softball career at the young age of 11 playing with the famed Compaware fast pitch organization capturing regional titles and appearing in a national championship. At the age of 17, she played with Foster Oilers appearing in national tournaments in 1991 and 1992.

Tracy went on to star at Lapeer West high school and then on to the University of Michigan where she broke UM records for RBI's and doubles while appearing in two college world series championships.

She continued her prowess on the field with Daly Restaurant in 1993-96 and again in 1999 appearing in class A national tournaments each year. With Tracy on the team, Daly finished in the top four in 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1999.

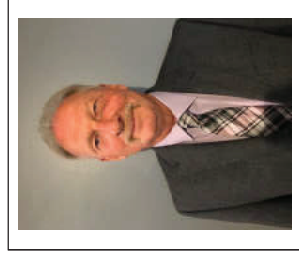
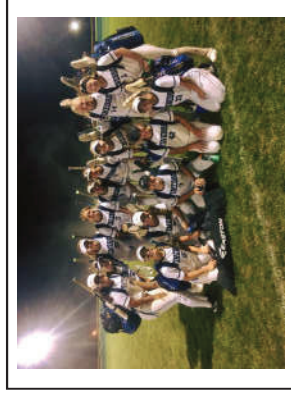
Tracy continued her career in Women's Professional Fastpitch from 1997-1998. Softball has been a part of Tracy's past for many years!

Detroit Sports Commission Meritorious Service

The Detroit Sports Commission has collaborated with USA Softball of Metro Detroit for more than 18 years. Through the partnership, it has afforded the metro Detroit area to host numerous national tournaments during that time. Many people have visited the Detroit area that may have never done so had USA Softball of Metro Detroit not conducted the national tournaments.

The economic impact has been more than \$10 million to the area since the collaboration was initiated. The Sports Commission and the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau have been instrumental in providing not only monetary support, but also by providing valuable visitor information as well as tournament volunteers.

The partnership is recognized as one the best relationships in the country for softball organizations and is a model that others continue to try and replicate!

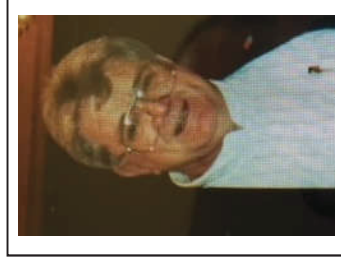


Bill Humphrey Meritorious Service

Bill Humphrey has been an institution in the softball arena at the local, state, and national level for decades! Although a part of the USA Softball of Michigan family, he has been instrumental in working with metro Detroit for many years beginning with former commissioner Bill Svochak.

As a member of the Michigan USA Softball Hall of Fame since 1982 and a member of the USA Softball national Hall of Fame (1987) both in the category of Umpire, his softball career started as a bat boy in 1946 and is still going strong. Bill continues to be a recognized leader in softball and is responsible for recruiting some of metro Detroit board members to get involved at the national level; which started a strong reputation for Detroit board members.

He served the Michigan Amateur Softball Association as State Commissioner and Executive Director for 13 years before moving on to the National Office. He has served USA Softball as a member of the National Umpire Staff, was elected President in 1996 and served as the Director of Membership Service. His personal claim to fame was starting the ASA National Umpire Schools with then National Umpire-in-Chief, Tom Mason, and fellow National Umpire Staff Member Ron Jeffers back in 1981. He rewrote the Umpire Mechanics Manual for the school which was adopted by the National Umpire Staff and has become the basis for training all USA Softball umpires since. A legend in promoting the game of softball!



John Jonassen Meritorious Service

John Jonassen first registered with USA Softball in 1996. John attended three National Umpire Schools to keep improving his skills throughout his career. He is a Gold Level Member of the Medals Program, a member of the National Indicator Fraternity, and is currently a member of the USA Softball of Detroit Umpire staff.

John has been involved with eight national tournaments serving as a local Umpire Coordinator or Assistant UJC – 2018, 2015, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2005. In addition, John has umpired in two MHSAA softball state finals. He was appointed to the Saint Clair Shores Baseball Softball Association Board of Directors in 1986 and served as their tournament director for 20 years and is their current President. John organized the Sharks fast pitch softball organization in 1992, coached teams at various levels and is now the assistant coach of their 15U Gold team. John also was the hitting and pitching instructor for the Detroit Batting Academy from 2002 to 2005 as well as a Lakeview High School assistant varsity softball coach from 1996-1999. A life dedicated to softball!



Chuck Maiorana Slow Pitch Player

Chuck Maiorana stands out as one of the top infielders in the game of slow pitch softball in metro Detroit. Chuck has participated in eight USA Softball national championships and has been named an All-American seven times including three times a national champion Most Valuable Player.

Chuck played on some of the top teams in metro Detroit including Nikki's Lounge, White Star Bar, Broder's Lounge, Nothdurft Tool, Mountain Top, and is currently a member of the Golden Vipers. Chuck was a member of the ASA class A national 3rd place Nikki's lounge team (1976, All American); member of Nothdurft's 35 & Over national champs in 1991, 1992, 1993 (All American); member of Mountain Top – Class A ASA national championship – 2002; Golden Vipers, 55 & over two-time national champion 2013, 2014 (MVP, All American); 60 & over national champion in 2016 (All American); and Pet Supplies Plus USA 60 & Over national champion in 2017 (MVP, All American).

Chuck will go down in history as a player who shined on the softball diamond with his extraordinary smooth play and skills!



USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Famers in the USA Softball National Hall of Fame

Johnny Spring* – 1970, Fast Pitch
Charles "Choo Choo" Justice* – 1974, Fast Pitch
Bill Cole – 1982, Slow Pitch
Bonnie Jones* – 1983, Fast Pitch
Mack Phillips* – 1986, Meritorious Service
Carl "Tex" Collins* – 1987, Slow Pitch
Roy Lombardo* – 1988, Manager
Carl Walker* – 1989, Fast Pitch
Mike Gouin – 1989, Slow Pitch
William Svochak* – 1990, Meritorious Service
Sam Lombardo* – 1991, Fast Pitch
Fred Nothdurft – 1992, Sponsor
Karl Nothdurft – 1992, Sponsor
Al White – 2011, Modified
Leon Grunait* – 2012, Manager
Harry Haroian* – 2016, Fast Pitch